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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Hungary

DATE: 25X1A

INFO. [REDACTED]

SUBJECT Interview with Count Michael Karolyi

DISC. 1 November 1946

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PAGES

SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN
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1. Karolyi stated that upon his recent return to Hungary he was received with full military honors and parades as befitted a former President of the Hungarian Republic. He said he was offered the Presidency but refused since it was, in his opinion, only a question of using his name and prestige. He accepted, however, the post of Hungarian Minister-at-large which carries little power but at least allows freedom to travel between Budapest, London and Paris.
2. Karolyi declared that his great fortune had been given back to him, at least in theory, since it consisted for the most part of land which the Government had confiscated and for which he will eventually be reimbursed.
3. Karolyi saw Jan Masaryk often ^{at Paris} on the question of Hungarian minorities in Czechoslovakia. The former Hungarian President thinks there is nothing that can be done concerning this problem, and is convinced that Masaryk is afraid of the Russians. According to Karolyi, the Slovaks are threatening the Czechs with a demand for absorption into the Soviet Union should any part of Slovakia be ceded to Hungary as the solution of the minorities problem.
3. Karolyi says he takes a middle-of-the-road course. He states he is not a Stalinist and is appalled by the incredible state of corruption in Hungary and the Balkans. He thinks the Russian grip on Hungary is too firm now to do anything about it, but he stated he would work for a Danubian Federation but has only a little hope for its success.

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